cipher under Rose, CC/

12/26/68

Dear Maggie,

When I left New Orleans I had agreed to do a number of things before the trial. I then did not understand that in order to be able to do some well I would have to proceed much more with what I had begun before this last trip there, the reoggenization of my files and the completion of what I had had to postpone, somedf the filing never done. These have delayed the beginning of that work, and they are far from as done as they must be before I can commence.

One of the things is the preparation of a memorandum proving what is easily proved but should be done completely, not easily. That is several impeachment memoranda. One is on Marina, the other on Ruth Paine. They seem to think either or both may be used as witnesses by the other side. Having appeared before the grand jury and not suffered, both may be willing. I am not inclined to believe the lawyers are this stupid. However, there is no choice. We cannot take a chance.

I have done little work on Ruth. I have done and have a lot on Marina. If your files are better organized than mine, and I certainly hope they are, perhaps you can help with this? Or, if you can squeeze it into spare moments, a few words and citations will do.

I have never made a separate list of the Marina documents I have. I soon will. If you have a list of those you have and can send it, I'll know soon if you have any I've missed. There are many I didn't get because I just could not afford it. Now I cannot recall all of them or all of what they say. Incidently, when I return from the trial, unless there is immediate prospect of publication, I shall complete this file organization, at least with regard to the evidence, and will then have fairly decent access to what I have, not having to trust very fragile memory, which daily weakens.

Steve Burton is preparing a memo on Hepburn. He is reluctant to do this on Rose without Louis' approval, which I can understand. True loyalty can never be blind, but I have written Louis asking him to give Steve the okay. If I did not think this may be necessary before the trial, I would not now be concerning myself with it. I also think it is vital for the future. There is a common misaprehension that the real thing the other side wants is our knowledge. That is less likely than to be able to misdirect us, to keep us working hard on the wrong things, to invite our self-destruction. Steve Jaffe also wrote me what for him is a confession. It is a brief self-justification, where he claims credit for preventing what has not been prevented and what he was so busily and sincerely engaged in arranging. However, I used the occasion to write and charge him with recording everything he knows. There is no absolutely no doubt of at least one wrong Hepburn connection. It is established. There must be others. I am unwilling to assume Rose has none, know of no reason not to check out what can be and think it should be done, beginning with Ed Foley, who produced him, as I forgot to remind Steve. Perhaps someone knows enough about him to be confident this was not a deliberate feed to and through him. The damage has been enormous and I feel we must do what we can to minimize it and, if possible, diminish or eliminate some of the predictable consequences.

On my last trip to New Orleans I was able, after Vince left, to pick up on some of the incomplete work I'd been engaged upon. I found one of the people who'd interested me was removed from Jim's jurisdiction the night Ferrie died and questioned by the police of the Parish to which he was taken, told it was for Jim, and given as reasons what does not make sense. This escalates my interest. I expect to return to on when I'm there again. In the course of checking out the WDSU

footage on Oswald (which I have had for a while and am having stills made from), Sciambra noted what I had missed, what a Mrs. John Tarsikes in San Antonio, noted the day of the assassination. The one published document is Exhibit 1153. I now have more and have located still more. It is also being checked out for me locally. What I have authenticates her. She has that kind of eye. Her husband, who is a professional photographer and is known to the SAIC SS, believes her. Kind of late in the game to be learning new things with the trial so close, but a minor example of what could have happened if the Garrison office had been working on the Garrison case. The unpublished material I have is in some ways astounding, for it is precisely what Dean Andrews testified to and what others whose testimony was never taken have told me when I interviewed them. And it is one of the first, certainly an entirely independent, description of the second man with Oswald. I have now established that his picketing was much more frequent that one would gather from the Report or the 26. He certainly did it each of the three days before he was arrested, and this was certainly known to the FBI and the Commission staff. I have ~~xxxx~~ what they knew and suppressed and others who they never interviewed. And there is no doubt at all that he did not get that handbill printed. I have a tentative identification of the man picked by both the owner of the business and the other person who dealt with him. Each, independently, picked the same pictures from many. One did not even recognize the arrest picture of Oswald, taken within a couple of months! He is not a stranger. The second time I did this (the office "lost" the first tape - and Boxley was with me when I did it!) Sciambra was along. That tape is not lost. So, there is still much work to be done, but now there is no time. I do not know when I'll be going there. The office will have to spend most of its time doing the legal work and preparing what it has in hand. There can now be little new investigation, though I'll do what I can. I hear from Sciambra regularly, by phone. My best guess is that I'll be going about 1/15, a week before the trial begins. Ot is supposed to.

In the event I forgot it, as I did above, Joel Palmer was part of the Department of Disinformation operation, very much so. After he called one of Jim's apparent witnesses one of the assassins, I can hardly understand how anyone ever again trusted him. But he was so trusted, he had copies of office data the office didn't have!

Hope you are having a good holiday. Best to everyone.

Sincerely,